

BAR HILL NEWS

March 2026 Issue 678



VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED – THE BHCA NEEDS YOUR HELP

The BHCA (Bar Hill Community Association) is facing a critical situation.

In June 2026, two trustees will be stepping down due to ill health and family commitments. This will leave the Charity without a Chair or a Secretary, putting the future of the BHCA at serious risk.

The BHCA supports and enables many of Bar Hill's most valued community activities, including:

- Summer Fete and Festival,
- Christmas Light Switch-On,
- First Lego League,
- Bar Hill News,
- Support and working with the community such as donating to the Royal British Legion and partnering with the Christmas Market.

Without new volunteers, the BHCA may not have enough Trustees to continue to operate as a Charity. If this happens, all supported committees and events are at risk of closure.

The BHCA desperately needs new volunteers, particularly those with experience of working with or operating charities, governance, administration, or community organisations.

If you value these events and want to help protect community life in Bar Hill, please consider getting involved.

To find out more, or to volunteer, please contact:

Anthony Mitchell

Vice Chair, the BHCA

anthonym@barhill-ca.org



THIS MONTH: Letters (Page 5), Cambridgeshire Community Lottery (Page 9), Bar Hill Childminders (Page 15), Library Update (Page 25), Bar Hill Primary School (Page 29), Open Gardens For Bar Hill? (Page 29), Saxon Park Update (Page 31), Parish Council Update (Page 33), and First Lego League (Page 34).

**Every Monday, 10-12 (unless otherwise listed) in the Octagon (opposite Maple Surgery)
The Hub is for people of all ages as a place to gather & enjoy community!**

2 March	Coffee Stop Foodbank Advice Sign-posting Chess, traditional & 5Aside versions	Health & Wellbeing 10.15 - 10.45
9 March		Carers Café with speaker from Dementia UK 10.00 - 11.30
16 March		Health & Wellbeing 10.15 - 10.45
23 March		Evergreens 10.00 - 11.30 Meet a Parish Councillor 10.00 - 12.00
30 March		Kurling Event with Hope Active Easter Activities

WHEN: Every Monday 10am – 12pm.

WHERE: The Octagon (opposite Maple Surgery), Bar Hill, CB23 8EH

WHAT: Our vision is to create a fairer and friendlier community, so everyone can thrive and knows where to turn to for warmth, welcome, friendship and support. The Hub is a busy gathering space, providing a warm, comfortable, welcoming space for our entire community. Come along and join us, we look forward to seeing you!

Coffee Stop: Pop in for a coffee, a piece of delicious home-made cake and a chat with friends, old and new!

Foodbank: No need for any vouchers. If you are struggling financially, drop by and let us help you, available between 10am and 11.30am.

NEW SERVICE: HUB ADVICE DROP-IN: Available from 10.00 - 11.30 am on Mondays. Please see separate entry in the Bar Hill News for more information about this service.

Evergreens: a safe space for those with memory loss to enjoy: Conversation, Connection, Celebration. Accompanied by a carer, friend or family member. When: usually 4th Monday of each month.

Health & Wellbeing: On the 1st & 3rd Monday, take advantage of some exercise guidance from our experienced coach (starting at 10.15am).

Carers Café: On the 2nd Monday of the month, providing support for any carers in the village, even if you are not a patient of Maple Surgery.

Meet a Parish Councillor: you can meet one of our Parish Councillors to discuss any issues within our village, between 10am and 12pm on the 4th Monday of the month. Just look for the sign within the Coffee Stop.

Traditional & 5Aside Chess (within the Coffee Stop): A great way to connect and start a conversation with people happy to teach you this wonderful game. Come along and join us for refreshments and a chat!

Hope Active Kurling: Did you enjoy watching the curling events on the television coverage of the Winter Olympics? If so, do come along on **30th March** to have a go at indoor curling with Hope Active Kurling. It's great fun and suitable for all ages and abilities!

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- Thursday 5th March 6.30pm - 10pm
- Friday 6th March 6.30pm - 10pm

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Email menunited@peterboroughsings.org.uk

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BAR HILL BIN COLLECTION DATES

DATE (Thursday unless notified)	BLACK BIN	BLUE BIN	GREEN BIN
5th March		✓	✓
12th March	✓		
19th March		✓	✓
26th March	✓		
2nd April		✓	✓
9th April	✓		
16th April		✓	✓

You can also add Bin Collection dates to your mobile/ tablet computer for automatic reminders!

This website address will take you to the correct page on the Greater Cambridge website.

www.greatercambridgewaste.org/find-your-household-bin-collection-day



If you'd like to contact the BHCA then you can either;

- Write to us at **Parish Council Offices, Hanover Close, Bar Hill. CB23 8EH**
- Email the Chair of Trustees at chair-of-trustees@barhill-ca.org, or

We meet monthly on the second Tuesday at 7:30 pm in the Fox. If you'd like an agenda please get in touch!

Help! We're Missing Something

Maybe it's an article by a group you support? A bit of local news? Or even details of an event? Let us know! Deadline for our April issue is **Thursday 12th March**.



Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Association.

There is no charge for Articles, What's On, For Sale or Lost and Found. These appear at the Editor's discretion.

www.barhill-ca.org | bhn-editor@barhill-ca.org



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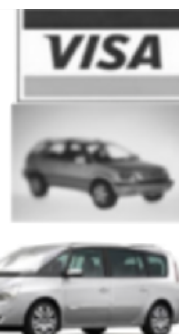
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LETTERS, NOTICES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please send your letters & notices to bhn-editor@barhill-ca.org. Thank you!



Bar Hill Indoor Bowls Club

We meet in the school on Friday evenings during term time only from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm with a 1/2 hour break for coffee. We are a very friendly group and we would love to have some new members. It doesn't matter if you have never played before just come along and join us one Friday, the cost is £3 per week but the 1st week is free.

Please note there will be no bowls on Friday 20th March due to school holidays

If you would like more information please contact me on **01954 204171 / 07847 327709** or barbara.page@live.co.uk

Bar Hill Catholic Mass

Mass will be held in Bar Hill Church at 6pm on Saturdays. Our services are open to all and everyone is very welcome to attend. If you have any queries please call Bunty Waters **07734 690580**. Our local parish priest is Father Adrian Gates, from OLEM, Ditton; he is also the Hospital Chaplain - **07842 190882**. Contact Bunty Waters for more info.

Notice:

Elizabeth Thoday, beloved wife to the late Geoffrey, mother to Fay and the late Mark, mother in law to Michael, and grandmother to Scott, passed peacefully to rest at the Arthur Rank hospice on Sunday 28 December 2025 age 96.

A funeral service was held at Bar Hill church on Tuesday 3 February. Donations, if desired, to Arthur Rank Hospice.

Thank you,
Fay Thoday

Bar Hill Church Knit & Natter Group

Thursday 1.30 until 3.00p.m. in The Octagon.

We are a well- established and a popular group who are keen and committed to knitting items that help others in need, and meet to knit and make new friends, produce some fantastic baby clothes, blankets and knitted toys etc., and enjoy tea and cakes together, and sometimes just chat and share stories.

As part of our programme we encourage the ladies to take part in some simple helpful and fun exercises designed to improve general welfare and to keep their fingers and joints moving well, and boost their physical and mental health.

Our present knitting programme is to produce baby clothes and blankets for local new young mums with limited resources, and also blankets for people in the village who may have health or welfare problems and need a helping hand or a kind gesture. We try to respond to any group or individual who needs this help.

New members are always very welcome and find it helps to have a regular group to attend weekly and are always happy to find new friends to chat to and share their "ups and downs" their interests and achievements.

All the wool and patterns are available for the ladies to use. So there are no financial obligations. However contributions of wool from friends and neighbours are very welcome!

During the year we have extra events like craft sessions, tea parties and some outings.

Want to know more? Drop in and see what we are doing any Thursday afternoon or for more information give me a ring. Sue Kenchington **01954 780260**. Hope to meet you soon!

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Bar Hill HAPPY HOURS Club

The Bar Hill Happy Hours club meets in the main bar area of the Bar Hill Sports and Social Club between 2 and 4pm on Friday afternoons for tea/coffee and cakes, getting together with friends, fun and games. All of this for only £2 per person. The bar is open if you want something extra.

Coming in March

6th March - Bingo and a Quiz

13th March - Mother's day theme

20th March - Bingo and a quiz

27th March - Spanish Theme

For further information please contact

Anne Plumb | **07790 306922** |
anne@rwp10.plus.com

Village Litter Picking

Saturday, 28th March and
Saturday, 25th April, 10.30 am
to 11.30 am.

Everyone is welcome to join in
and equipment will be
provided.

Please meet outside the Parish Council offices.

Julie Gawthroe | **07789 838084**



8 o'clock Club

The club is a women's group and we meet in the school on the 1st Thursday of the month at 7.30 pm. *Our next meeting on Thursday 5 March is our 52nd Birthday Party for members only*

This will take place at the Social Club at 12.30 when we will be having afternoon tea.

There will be no meeting in April due to school holidays.

Our fee is £15 per year to join and then we make a charge at each meeting to cover the cost of refreshments and a raffle.

We welcome new members to the club. If you would like to join please come along to one of our meetings or phone Barbara **204171 (07847 327709)** Adela **204265** or Ann **204687**

Dear Editor, RE: Puzzle Solutions

The solution to last month's puzzle is;

- **Across** - 1.Alligator. 6.rearrange. 7.Linden Lea. 10.Coltsfoot.
- **Down** - 1.Acrylic. 2.Lea. 3.Gardens. 4.Tan. 5.Reenact. 8.Nil. 9.Leo.

This month's puzzle can be found on Page 20.
Hope you enjoy it!

Keith Morris

Olive Tree Bereavement Group

Our next meeting for members will be held on Saturday 14th March at 10.30a.m. The following month is 11th April 2026. Both are held in the Octagon at 10.30a.m.

We will be pleased to see you if you are a regular member, a new member or if you have never been before.

The days are getting longer now, Spring is here with the bulbs coming into flower. A feeling of isolation and loneliness, particularly at night might still occur. If this is you perhaps you would like to come along and meet people experiencing this too?

This is a very welcoming group where you can talk quite freely and your confidence will be respected. There will be time to share your experiences, listen and have discussion as well as getting to know others in the group, with time for refreshments too.



If you are wondering whether the group is right for you, please phone one of us to talk about it. We welcome all new comers and would prefer that they arrive at 10.00a.m.on the above dates so that we can explain more about what happens.

The leaders, who are CRUSE Trained, and members of the group will offer a warm welcome and you will be in the presence of people who have been through loss and understand the pain and difficulties that this brings.

For more details telephone Sue Kenchington on **780260**, or Chris Stannard on **781978**.



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CAMBRIDGESHIRE COMMUNITY LOTTERY

Would you like to see more in our village (such as the Fete, Our New Playground, the forthcoming Skatepark, etc.), then you can support Bar Hill Community Association who have now been approved as “Good Cause”, by buying Cambridgeshire Community Lottery tickets, where you have a much greater chance of winning than most other lotteries.

Tickets cost just £1 per week with a chance of winning up to £25,000 (see prize listing below).

And the great news is that 50p from every ticket goes directly to a good cause which you choose (*we hope that would be BHCA of course*).



SO FAR WE HAVE RAISED NEARLY £300 JUST FROM TICKETS BOUGHT BY A FEW TRUSTEES AND VOLUNTEERS ALONE – JUST THINK HOW MUCH MORE WE COULD DO FOR THE VILLAGE IF YOU JOINED US IN BUYING A TICKET!

If you want more information then please feel free to contact any of the BHCA Trustees or Volunteers and they can advise.

All you need to do is visit [http://](http://www.cambridgeshirecommunitylotteryco.uk/support/find-a-good-cause)

www.cambridgeshirecommunitylotteryco.uk/support/find-a-good-cause and select Bar Hill Community Association as your chosen “good cause” when you purchase your ticket(s).



BOBS March 2026

Welcome to the males in Bar Hill.

What is BOBS we stand for Bar Hill Old Boys. BOBS is a replacement for Crafts Shed that after 5 years of operating as a Charity, the painful decision was taken due to lack of accommodation to disband as a Charity.

What do we do, we meet on Thursdays in the Octagon Meeting Room between 0945 and 1130. We may just chat, play chess, or some play Table Tennis. Occasionally some may go for tea/ coffee or lunch afterwards. It is a great group to be a member of. Don't be on your own when you may be able to make new friends.

Many members enjoyed a Christmas Lunch at the Fox, Bar Hill. Our thanks go to all their staff for helping in making it such an enjoyable time.

Should you require further information then either contact Nick Gunton on **07484 255514** or Chris Stannard **07711 623425**



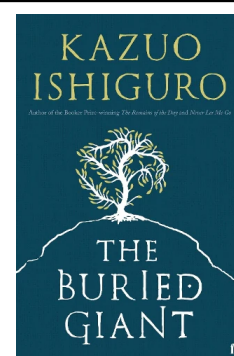
Bar Hill Ladies Book Club

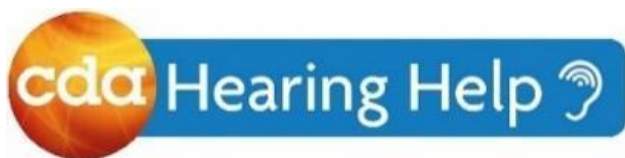
The next meeting will be on Tuesday 10th March at the Social Club, time 19.30. This month's book is *The Buried Giant by Kazuo Ishiguro*.

We are a friendly group of ladies who love to read & share our opinions & thoughts.

Please join us, you will be so welcome.

Please email Julie for more information julie45172@outlook.com.





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BAR HILL 2026

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**10am – 12pm
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**7 Jan /4 Feb /4 Mar /1 Apr /6 May 3
June /1 Jul /5 Aug /2 Sept /7 Oct
4 Nov /2 Dec**



Cambridgeshire Deaf Association 01223 416141 or for enquiries & volunteering opportunities.

Bar Hill Memorial Garden

Spring is fast approaching; however, the days are getting longer, the bulbs are pulling through with the start of the Season. The tidy up in the Autumn last year has made a real difference. We are now aware that some grasses may have to be replaced this year. Thank you to all who helped.

If there are any gardeners keen to help in this project please contact Chris below.

My grateful thanks to all who continue to donate towards the upkeep of the Memorial Garden, cheques / cash may be left at 7 Acorn Avenue made payable to Bar Hill Memorial Garden or alternatively paid directly into Bar Hill Memorial Account at the Cambridge Building Society Account Number 1768402740 Sort Code 20-17-55. Thank you once again to all those who have given financial support for this work.

Should you wish to place a Memorial Plaque then contact Chris Stannard **01954 781978**, **07711 623425**, c.e.stannard1@gmail.com

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THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

We meet in the Octagon on the 4th Thursday of the Month, at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome.



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Dates/ Topics for the 2026 meetings will be; *April 23rd A speaker TBC, June 25th Summer social event, July 11th Fete table, August 27th Normal meeting with quiz, cheese and snacks and a raffle, and AGM October 22nd.*

During 2025 we had a fish and chip supper, took part in the Village Fete and organised the Poppy Appeal.

If you are interested in joining or would like further information or help, please contact either Wendy Arrowsmith on **01954 781381** or Malcolm Cox on **01953 488657**.

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COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

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Spine Path Resurfacing

The capital programme that was agreed last year has considered a number of longer term projects. Among them is the resurfacing of Bar Hill's spine path. This is the core of the footpath network within the village and has been showing signs of its age. Having reviewed it the highways teams believe the best way to maintain the footpath is to resurface it, rather than just patch it up. This deals with the problem that the whole of the spine path is likely to age at the same rate, so resurfacing it will ensure the longest life. The work should be happening very soon, but it is weather dependent to an extent. Please bear with the teams as they do their work!



Peak Pothole Time

The period early in the year is the time when any defects and weaknesses in the road structure will be most likely to manifest as potholes. They have taken years to form, created by years of underfunding and under maintenance. Funding for highways maintenance comes from government, but for years it hasn't been enough. Last year and again this year we are investing additional money into highways maintenance, and as a result are able to ramp up the pothole fixes at this time. We know it is not going to be enough to do every pothole in the time we would like, but the council is fixing something like 1500 potholes a week at the time of writing. It is important to keep reporting them on the county's reporting system as these form the basis of the work of the maintenance team. You can find the reporting tool (ReportIt) on the Cambridgeshire county council website.

County Council Budget Set

We put forward major investments in road repairs, support for vulnerable families and action on climate, despite mounting financial

pressure caused by lack of basic Government funding.

While the Labour Government has followed the Conservatives in pushing the cost of social care, SEND, and road maintenance crises onto local councils, we have balanced the books and prioritised frontline services.

Somewhat against the odds, and after decades of managed decline by the Conservatives, the new budget includes an extra £40m over the next two years to help tackle the road repair backlog, £2.7m to protect holiday food support for families, and continued investment in community flood protection and renewable energy projects. We are also cracking down on utility companies that delay works and dig up newly repaired roads. After fining firms and developers more than £483k for slow repairs, they will introduce a lane rental scheme charging companies for every day they disrupt key routes.

However, be warned that Cambridgeshire remains significantly underfunded for its fast-growing population and this needs addressing!

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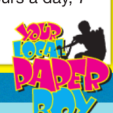
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Bar Hill Childminders



Bar Hill Childminders are all graded 'Good' on their latest inspections, are fully insured and hold Paediatric First Aid and Safeguarding training. We are registered with Ofsted and have enhanced CRB checks. We offer quality, caring, home from home care with a wide range of exciting experiences for the children in our care, both in our homes and in the local community. We regularly go on walks, outings and attend local groups to help the children socialise. We have our own childminding group on a Wednesday morning that is open to all local childminders. The group is a chance for us to catch up and support each other and for the children to play with a larger group of children.

We find having a wide range of ages benefits all the children in our care, it helps the younger children's confidence and encourages the older children to be patient and understanding with the younger children, helping them learn and progress.

We accept all Government funding for eligible parents and the Government Tax Free Childcare payments.

As we are busy during the day with the children, please text us your enquiry with details of your requirements and we will contact you as soon as possible with our up to date availability and hourly rates.

Jacky – 07718447998 – ages 6 months upwards. Term time only and all year round care offered. Current availability - wrap around spaces for school aged children available now. Monday – Thursday for an under 5 from Sept 2027.

Kirsten - 07906218070 – ages 6 months upwards. Term time only and all year round care offered. Spaces available from September 2027.

Eszter Horwood – 07783436921 – ages 6 months upwards. Term time only and all year care offered. Current availability is a permanent space on Thursday and Friday 8-5 and a temporary space from

Feb to end of Sept.

During February we made bird feeders and watched the different types of birds who visited our gardens. It was Valentines Day and children's mental health week, and we talked about the people who are special to us and who care for us, we also talked about caring for ourselves. We had lots of fun celebrating Lunar New Year. We had fun at music and movement sessions at Treetops



near Ely and during half term we had lots of fun trips including the cinema, zoo and woodland walks. We also enjoyed watching the workmen dig up and resurface the path.



In March we are looking forward to taking part in World Book Day and choosing our own books with the special book voucher. It is also Mothering Sunday so we will be making gifts to show our mums how much we care about them. We

will also be looking forward to Easter and Easter crafts.

Saturday, March 14
Saturday, April 11
Saturday, May 8

Willingham
Memory Box Café

Invites people living with memory loss (from any cause) and their carers to join us for Music, Company, Chat, Refreshments and Fun

from 10 am to 12 noon

In The Octagon
(behind Willingham Parish Church, with wheelchair access and no steps)

or visit our facebook page www.facebook.com/WillinghamMemoryBoxCafe/



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BAR HILL DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Bunty Waters - bunty.waters@scambs.gov.uk

01954 201421/ 07734 690580



Welcome if you are new to the village, meet me in the HUB on Monday mornings for a coffee, you can contact me if I can help in any way or you would like more information.

My South Cambs Accounts

See personalised information - such as your Council Tax payments or your Benefits account. Please visit mysouthcambs.scambs.gov.uk or email us, phone, write to, visit our offices, or get in touch using our social media channels.

scdc@scambs.gov.uk phone 01954 713 000

Cambridge South Station: Connecting Communities Sustainably

Opening in summer 2026, Cambridge South station will offer South Cambridgeshire residents improved, sustainable access to healthcare, employment, education, and leisure.

Located on the Cambridge Biomedical Campus, the station connects directly to Addenbrooke's and Royal Papworth hospitals, making travel easier for patients, staff, and visitors. It also links communities to thriving life science and academic careers, with better access to Long Road Sixth Form College and the Cambridge

Academy for Science and Technology. Cycle parking, step-free access, and nearby green spaces support active, inclusive travel. Cambridge South is a vital step toward cleaner air, reduced congestion, and a more connected future. See the National Rail website for timetable information at nationalrail.co.uk.

Council Tax

South Cambs charges one of the lowest Council Taxes in the country. Most of the Council Tax collected is passed to Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridgeshire Police, Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service and parish or town councils. Some is also passed to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, to support local buses.

Less than half of the annual budget is funded from local Council Tax. Other funding sources include Business Rates and grants, whilst funding is also generated from investments. A £5.24 per year increase in Council Tax for the average band D home was due to be discussed by councillors. It would mean the average band D home charge for South Cambridgeshire District Council would become £180.64 per year. SCDC expects this would still maintain our position among the lowest 25% of taxing District Councils in the country.

Help With Your Council Tax

Residents on a low income may be able to receive a reduction in their Council Tax; this is referred to as Council Tax Support. This includes people who are working and liable for Council Tax. The scheme for the financial year 2026/27 will be agreed by Full Council on 24 February 2026.

For more information, or to apply for Council Tax Support, visit www.scambs.gov.uk/benefits/what-benefits-are-available-to-me

Report Fly-Tipping

Via greatercambridgewaste.org or abandoned vehicles at scambs.gov.uk.





Bar Hill Neighbourhood Watch

working for a safer community



To contact Neighbourhood watch please email
nhwinbarhill@yahoo.co.uk

To keep up to date on the latest developments
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Bar Hill Community Market

**Saturday 28 March
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February in the Preschool started unusually chilly so the children have put on their warmest clothes, hats, gloves and scarves in the mornings, ready for a fun day at Preschool.

The month was filled with opportunities to focus on social and emotional development with children's mental health week. Children were supported to talk about what makes them happy and sad and decorated pictures from the book 'the colour monster'.

We have also been developing imaginative stories skills using props to help expand our ideas. This fitted in well with National story telling week, a yearly event run by the Society for Storytelling that celebrates the tradition of storytelling and aims to inspire a whole new generation of storytellers. There's no better time to get everyone together and appreciate the magic of a great story.

We celebrated Valentines day with a heart themed craft and also had a pancake themed messy tray for pancake day.

Later during the month we celebrated Chinese New Year.



Our role play this month has been a bakery with gingerbread biscuits and heart shaped biscuits.

After half term we have reopened on the 23th February for another week of fun. We will then be in March starting off with World book day.

We offer places to children the term after they are two years old. We accept 2,3,4 year old funding and also are part of the national savings childcare scheme. See our website (above) for more details or call for an application form.

Over Memory Café

inviting all people living with memory loss, their families and carers, to join us for Music, Refreshments and Fun.

Saturday, March 28

Saturday, April 25

Saturday, May 23

from 10 am to 12 noon

at The Over Day Centre, 1 Drings Close, Over, CB24 5N
 wheelchair accessible, free parking available

please visit <https://www.facebook.com/OverMemoryCafe/>

Hedgehog Fact: Hibernation isn't one long sleep. They wake up regularly and may move nests several times, which is why warm spells in late winter and early spring can be so dangerous for hedgehogs.



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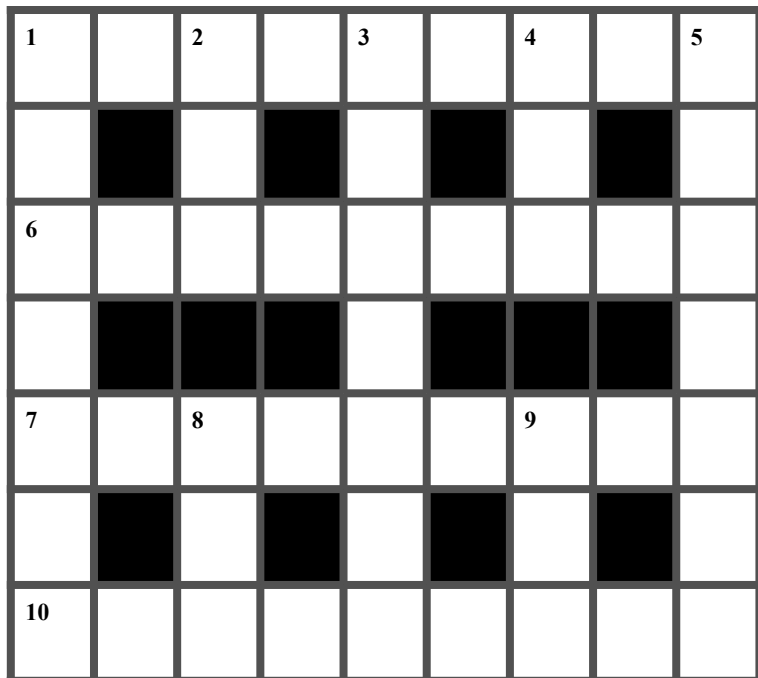
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PUZZLE for MARCH 2026

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7.getting better-2-3-4. 10.not looking to the future.

Down - 1.in league. 2.priest's garment.
3.most unworldly. 4.anger. 5.realm.
8.also. 9.make last.

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AGM: 7.30 PM TUESDAY 3 MARCH

Our AGM will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 7th March in the Bar Hill Social Club. All members and non-members interested in tennis and pickleball or who want to know more about the Club are invited to attend.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

All memberships are due for renewal on 1st April and as usual the court access code will be changed from that date. Membership details for 2026-27 will be available on our website from mid-March. There is an active WhatsApp group for members to share information and find playing partners.

TAKE CARE

We are currently seeking funding to resurface our ageing courts as the surface



is breaking up in places leaving loose gravel on the surface. So anyone playing should take care, and particularly check that the courts are suitable for play after rain.

OCCASIONAL PAY & PLAY GAMES

You can book a pay & play game using the tennis nets and your own equipment. Go to <https://barhilltennisclub.co.uk/book>.

CLUB TIMES

Our Adult Club nights for social tennis are Tuesdays and Thursdays starting at 6.30pm.

Our Adult Club times for pickleball are Monday evenings starting at 5.00pm, and Friday mornings at 10.00am.

CONTACT

Paul Chubbuck (Chair)

chair@barhilltennisclub.co.uk

Richard Lewney (Secretary)

secretary@barhilltennisclub.co.uk

NOEL HART

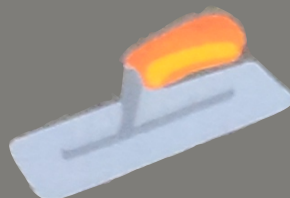
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Helping Hedgehogs in March

March is a critical month for hedgehogs. As temperatures rise, many begin to wake from hibernation - often before nature can fully support them. After months without food, they emerge hungry, dehydrated, and vulnerable, and a little help from us can make a real difference.

Why March Is So Important

Hedgehogs rely on fat reserves to survive winter, but by early spring these can be dangerously low, especially if hibernation has been disrupted by mild or changeable weather. Natural food such as beetles, worms, and slugs is still scarce, making it harder for hedgehogs to regain strength.

Seeing a hedgehog out at night in March isn't unusual, as they are searching for food.

However, daytime activity usually means something isn't right.

How You Can Help

Food and water

- Put out a shallow dish of water every evening
- Offer meaty cat (or dog) food
- Dry cat biscuits are also suitable
- Never give milk! Hedgehogs are lactose intolerant and it can make them ill

Food should be placed out at dusk.

Shelter and nesting areas

- Leave piles of leaves, logs, or brush in quiet corners of the garden
- Avoid over-tidying - what looks messy to us can be lifesaving shelter
- A purpose-built hedgehog house in a sheltered spot can provide a resting place

Garden Safety

Spring gardening can unintentionally put hedgehogs at risk:

- Always check long grass, compost heaps, and bonfires before disturbing them
- Avoid slug pellets and pesticides, which can poison hedgehogs directly or through their food
- Take extra care when mowing or strimming.

For more help and advice, please contact Liz

Dams : **07912 988898** / Shepreth Hedgehog Hospital **07947 361187**

Reasons To Be Concerned.

- A hedgehog seen out during the daytime
- It appears injured, wobbly, or unwell
- It looks very small or weak (under about 450–500g at this time of year)

Small Actions, Big Impact

Hedgehogs are sadly in serious decline across the UK, because of habitat loss, roads and rubbish. Our gardens and villages play a vital role in their survival. Simple steps - food, water, shelter, and awareness - can genuinely save lives.

Wildlife-Friendly Gardening in March

March is a sensitive time for wildlife as many animals begin to wake, nest, or breed while natural food is still scarce. Avoid over-tidying the garden - piles of leaves, logs, and dead plant stems provide vital shelter for insects, hedgehogs, and other small animals.

Put out fresh water daily, continue feeding birds during cold spells, and check carefully before cutting hedges, mowing long grass, or digging. Avoid pesticides and slug pellets, which harm wildlife directly or through the food chain.

By gardening gently and leaving a little wildness, even small gardens can make a big difference to wildlife in early spring.

More and more wildlife is losing its habitat because we are taking it away each day for roads, houses and much more. We need to help the wildlife we have left by making our gardens more natural.



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Bar Hill Village Hall

The large Main Hall has multi-purpose vinyl flooring, making it flexible for all types of events. There is a kitchen alongside the Hall with a serving hatch, making it useful for self-catering at parties, discos and the like. The licensed bar can be booked on request and will be serviced by the Sports and Social Club. The Hall opens out onto a large patio area that is ideal for external activities or a spill-over for internal events and has two bolted gates that lead off the premises.

There is also a Meeting Room, with its own independent access and great for meetings of up to 10 people.

The Village Hall is managed as a registered charity (number 1002579). To book, please visit our web site barhillvillagehall.com and email enquiries@barhillvillagehall.com to confirm arrangements.

Alternatively, call **01954 782414** and leave a message. We aim to return calls within 24hours (Monday to Friday).



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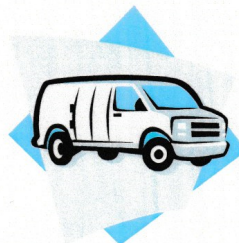
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BAR HILL LIBRARY - March 2026

Please keep an eye out for information about a special event we are holding this month to mark our official opening. You can find out more via social media, posters or simply by coming in to see us.



Regular Events

Now that our newly-refurbished building is open, we are back to our usual opening hours:

Mon 10 am - 5 pm

Tue 2 pm - 5 pm

Wed 10 am - 5 pm

Fri 2 pm - 5 pm

Sat 9.30 am - 12.30 pm

We will also be hosting our regular events each month, including:

- Stay & Play Every Monday 10am - 12pm (Term time only)
- Rhymetime Every Tuesday 2.30pm - 3pm
- Storytime 3rd Wednesday of the month 3.15pm - 3.45pm
- Lego Club 2nd Wednesday of the month 3.30pm - 4.45pm (Term time only)
- Coffee, Cake, Conversation & More 1st Tuesday of the month 10.30am - 11.30am
- Board Games 4th Friday of the month 2.30pm - 4.30pm (Term time only)

Don't forget that we can help you apply for a new or replacement bus pass - just call in with the relevant information and we can complete your application with you.

Also, we can replace the rubber ferrules on the ends of walking aids - especially important at a time of year when pavements can be slippery. Bring your walking stick or frame in and, if we have a ferrule to fit, we can do this for you.



Bar Hill Day Nursery and Out of School Club

www.buttercupschildcareltd.co.uk

Bar Hill Day Nursery is based in Gladeside, Bar Hill. We are open 7.30am – 6pm, Monday to Friday, 50 weeks per year. We have spaces year-round or term-time for children aged 4 months to 4 years. Please contact the Nursery for more information or to arrange a visit. **Phone: 01954 488081 Email:**

info@buttercupschildcareltd.co.uk

Bar Hill Out of School Club is based in the building next to Bar Hill Primary School. We offer Before and After School care and Holiday Club for Primary aged children. We are open 7.30am – 8.45am, 3pm – 6pm Monday to Friday and 8am – 6pm during school holidays. For more information or to make a booking please contact the Out of School Club: **Phone 01954 200814 Email: oosc@buttercupschildcareltd.co.uk**

FRIENDS OF THE ROSIE

We wish all the new mums an enjoyable Mothering Sunday, and a Happy and Healthy 2026

With your help we raised £1,270 in 2025 to help make the Rosie a more comfortable environment for mothers and babies. You can find out how we spend your donations at our Annual General Meeting on 2nd March 2026
NOTE NEW DATE.

Our next in person stall is at;

- Bar Hill Community Market on Saturday 28th March 10am to 1pm in the Church Octagon

New members are always welcome, whether to contribute financially, to join our team of crafters, join our committee, provide transport for our volunteers or display a small selection of our wares. If you would like to donate some of your spare time check out our website's volunteering page for some ideas.

Thank you for your continued support and we wish you all the very best for 2026.

Avril Williams | **07493692010**

[**avril@rosieinstitches.org.uk**](mailto:avril@rosieinstitches.org.uk)

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Potholes and Damaged Roads in Cambridgeshire

I know that people are fed up, even frightened, and spending far too much money on car repairs due to potholes and subsidence in our roads across Cambridgeshire.

Cambridgeshire County Council has had to repeatedly fix these roads for years, but the funding it receives from the Government is massively stretched and doesn't account at all for the unique geology of the terrain in Cambridgeshire. Built largely on fen soils, our roads are particularly susceptible to deterioration during wet weather and extreme heatwaves, and cost up to four times as much to maintain, with repairs lasting just a fraction of the time.

I recently raised this directly with the Secretary of State for Transport, specifically in relation to the B1050 in Willingham - one of many peat-affected roads in the area which is currently in dangerous condition.

I will now be writing to the Minister for Roads, urging the Government to recognise the crisis we are facing with our roads in Cambridgeshire, and pressing for action to address the pothole funding deficit.

National Apprenticeship Week

National Apprenticeship Week took place

between the 9th and 15th of February, where we celebrated the hard work of thousands of apprentices and employers across the country, and highlighted the huge impact they have on both our local and national economies.

During the week, I met apprentices from across St Neots and Mid Cambridgeshire such as Jamie, who is completing an electrical course at Marshall in Cambridge, and others taking engineering courses at Domino in Bar Hill. It was great to hear about how their apprenticeships have not just given them a career, but a huge range of skills and a professional network for life. Above all though, I was so pleased to hear how much they are truly enjoying their work and study.

As well as meeting apprentices themselves, I also spoke with employers – who are growing increasingly frustrated by the Government's proposals to reform the apprenticeship system. These reforms will lead to a huge drop in standards, and both employers and trading bodies have raised with me their very real safety concerns.

Especially during Apprenticeship Week, Ministers must demonstrate that they're genuinely committed to working with – not against – industry experts, as well as those with real apprenticeship experience, such as the fantastic young people in our community.



If you would like to contact me, please email ian.sollom.mp@parliament.uk, visit my website www.iansollom.org, or alternatively you can follow me on X: @IanSollom, Facebook www.facebook.com/IanFSollom or Instagram www.instagram.com/iansollom



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Bar Hill Primary School



The Maples - Outdoor Learning

This year all classes will be participating in outdoor learning sessions in the Maples forest area of school. We would love to build up a collection of items that can be of use in these sessions for all pupils. If you have any of the following items that you are willing to donate to the school, please either drop them off at the office or send them in with your child to hand in.

**Wellies (all sizes) | Waterproof coats (all sizes) |
Waterproof trousers (all sizes) | Old
saucepans, frying pans, baking trays,
colanders etc | Wooden spoons | Plastic bowls |
Pans for cooking on fires | Metal buckets |
Firewood | Kindling | Rope or string |
Tarpaulins/groundsheets | Old drain covers |
Mallets | Wooden tent pegs | Natural objects
such as pine cones, conkers, stones**

Many thanks, Mrs Mayer

Junior Travel Ambassadors

The JTA team have been working their magic to support safer and more active travel to school.

Harrison was our lucky recipient of the Active Travel Bear, Rover, awarded for walking to school every day, a fantastic achievement



and a great example for others to follow.

In addition, the JTA team have been outside installing our new pavement signs, which will remain in place to encourage safer and more considerate parking around the school. These signs are an important step in helping to keep our children, families, and community safe at drop-off and pick-up times.



Bar Hill Open Gardens

The National Open Garden Scheme was founded in 1927 with the objective "to open gardens of quality, character and interest to raise funds for nursing and health charities". The



Regional Organiser is keen for Bar Hill to join the scheme to increase the number of smaller open gardens. Smaller gardens are typically open as part of a group open gardens event.

As some of us are aware there are arguably some exceptional gardens hidden across the village. The 60th anniversary of the foundation of Bar Hill in 2027 would provide an opportunity for these gardens to be seen by others. To meet this deadline the Regional Organiser will need to accept the gardens into the scheme by the end of June this year.

If you would be interested in exploring the opportunity to open your garden I would be delighted to hear from you. Please don't be shy.

Derek Ford | dw.ford@btinternet.com

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Wheels in Motion for Bar Hill's New Skatepark

Bar Hill is taking an exciting step toward a brand-new skatepark as Maverick is joining forces with the Skatepark Task Group to deliver a lively community consultation for a proposed skatepark at the Saxon Park site (opposite the Fox Pub).

The consultation is rolling into the village in three parts - two face to face consultations and an online survey, making sure everyone has a chance to get involved. The first session kicks off at Bar Hill Primary School, where pupils, parents, and residents share ideas, enthusiasm, and plenty of imaginative suggestions. Later, the conversation continues at the Fox Pub, proving once again that some of the best community ideas are being born over a good chat and a welcoming atmosphere.

Feedback from residents can range from practical design ideas to hopeful visions of a skatepark that is becoming a safe, inclusive hub for all ages - not just a place to skate, but somewhere to meet, learn new skills, and build confidence. Equally, if there are concerns about a skatepark in Bar Hill then we're all ears.

The Skatepark Task Group extends a huge thank you to everyone who attends, shares ideas, or simply stops by to find out more and plans to present the findings of the consultation and its feasibility survey at the Annual Parish Meeting. All residents are warmly encouraged to attend and hear how the project is shaping up. The consultation also marks the launch of the Friends of Saxon Park community group, created to keep residents informed and involved as the project is progressing.

With wheels officially in motion and community energy running high, the future of a Bar Hill skatepark is looking bright - and this is only just the beginning.



Swavesey Camera Club
One of the leading clubs in East Anglia

Exhibition: Saturday 21st March 2026

10 am to 4 pm at Swavesey Memorial Hall

This event is one of our major opportunities of the year to demonstrate our photographic skills to the public. In addition to the beautiful prints on display, there will be a continuous display of projected images and AV presentations. Some of the images will be available as greetings cards with all the proceeds from the card sales going to Over Day Centre. There will also be excellent homemade cakes, tea, coffee and soft drinks available throughout the day. So if you are interested in photography, want to find out more about our club or just interested in viewing the images on display do call in ! Visit us and vote for your favourite image.

Visit our website (see below) for further details. The address (for Satnav) of the hall is Swavesey Memorial Hall, High Street, Swavesey, CB24 4QU.

(Our exhibition is kindly sponsored by Ash Croft Veterinary Surgery and Willow Bay Financial Partners).



www.swaveseycameraclub.co.uk



NEW SATURDAY LUNCH CLUB

Welcoming all residents of Over and surrounding villages to join us for lunch at the Day Centre on the fourth Saturday of each month, service starting at 12:30 following the Memory Café

*to book your place or for more information visit our website
www.overdaycentre.co.uk/whats-on/saturday-lunch-club/
by email: saturdaylunchclub@overdaycentre.co.uk
or please call: 01954 231807 or 07710 694900*

**our next lunch is on
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BAR HILL PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Office, Hanover Close, Bar Hill. CB23 8EH

Chairperson: bunty.waters@barhill-pc.gov.uk



Trees

Our annual tree works are continuing. Residents should see contractors around the village.

The Parish Council will be planting some new trees at various locations around the village. Replanting is carefully considered to maintain the character and beauty of the area for years to come.

Please get in touch with the clerk if you would be able to help with planting.

Play Park

Please can adults NOT use the play equipment in the new play park this is to stop equipment breaking and wearing.

Fly Tipping

Please can residents not Fly Tip their rubbish as this involves a considerable cost (£120) to residents and comes out of the precept. If you would like to give away free items, please put them on your property boundary and not on public/private land.

Dog Fouling

Please make sure you clean up after your dogs and have poo bags with you when out walking with your dogs. Please report any concerns here <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/recycling-and-bins/report-or-request/report-environmental-issues#:~:text=If%20you%20spot%20a%20dog,time%20you%20walk%20your%20dog.>

Litter Picking

A big thank you to all those that take time to pick litter around the village. If anyone would like a bag & litter picker to pick when they have time, please contact the Clerk on **01954 780456** or clerk@barhill-pc.gov.uk to collect from the PC office.

Please Keep Vegetation Trimmed

Residents are asked to please check any vegetation growing from your property onto public paths. Overhanging branches, shrubs, and hedges can make footpaths narrow, unsafe, or difficult to access, especially for pushchairs, wheelchairs, and mobility scooters.

If you have plants or hedges that are starting to encroach onto a walkway, please give them a trim to help keep our pathways safe and easy for everyone to use.

Thanks for doing your part to keep Bar Hill tidy and accessible.

If you see anything that causes concern for safety in and around the Village, for example electric scooters on pathways, please call 101 and report it.

COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Environment and Amenities Committee

4 March 2026 - 7pm in the Parish Council Office

Full Council Meeting

19 March 2026 - 7pm in the Parish Council Office





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FIRST LEGO LEAGUE

It is with much sadness that our GRAND FINALS DAY will now **NOT take place** as planned. This is due to the fact that we have recently been informed that nearly all of children cannot make any weekend event. It is very sad as we have been preparing for this for a long time organising everything including the venue, competition tables etc. etc. and planning to show off the skills of the children to the village and local companies. However the good news is that we will be holding a mini final event on Friday 27th March on the floor of the Buttercups After School Club and presenting the children with their medals and hopefully awarding a trophy to the most successful team. The children will of course be wearing their tee shirts, with their own designs printed on them, and we promise to bring you news of this in the next edition of the BHN. Undeterred by this sad news, the children

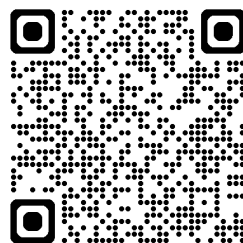


have been continuing with their robot programming and are preparing for their own competition.

Some more good news though as another local school has shown an interest in taking part in this exciting STEM based opportunity. We will be meeting with them soon, so all our efforts may not be in vain as we are hopeful that they will inherit the equipment and compete in both local and national events – more news as soon as I have it.

Bar Hill Church News

Services for March may
be viewed on our website
barhillchurch.org.uk



The Mother of all celebrations! Sunday, 15th March, 10 am

Every March Mother's Day is celebrated by many people. At the Church we call it *Mothering Sunday* because before it became a celebration of mums, it was a day when people returned to their 'mother church'-the church where they were baptised, to

worship together. It was about coming home, reconnecting, and remembering where their faith was first nurtured.

Today, we rightly give thanks for mothers and those who have shown us motherly love: carers, grandparents, foster parents, godparents, teachers, and friends. We celebrate the quiet faithfulness, sacrifice, and tenderness that so often goes unseen. At the same time, Mothering Sunday can be complex. For some it brings joy and gratitude; for others it carries pain, absence, or longing. Church, at its best, holds all of that honestly and gently.

We are also reminded of the love of God, who mothers us all-comforting, protecting, teaching, and calling us by name. Scripture speaks of God's compassion as a mother's care, steadfast and faithful.

"He will cover you with his wings; you will be safe in his care; his faithfulness will protect and defend you". Psalm 91:4

As we worship together on Mothering Sunday, may we be reminded that we all belong, that we are all held, and that we are invited to share that nurturing love with a world that deeply needs it.



Contacts

Church Office: Ian Farr, 01954 206120, church.office@barhillchurch.org.uk

Enquiries about hiring space for an event should be directed to Ian.

Minister: Revd Wendy Wale 07780 828865

minister@barhillchurch.org.uk





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DATE: TUE 3RD MARCH 2026

TIME: 3:15 - 5:45PM

VENUE: BAR HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL, GLADESIDE, BAR HILL, CB23 8DY

TIME: 7:00 - 9:00 PM

VENUE: THE FOX, GLADESIDE, BAR HILL, CB23 8DY



BAR HILL
PARISH COUNCIL

